

Regional Interagency Coordinating Committee (RICC) minutes

December 3, 2007

15 members were in attendance.

Carol Brakel opened the meeting with introductions. Members shared information on upcoming trainings and events: *Santa's Village sponsored by The Arc, Upper Valley, will have an evening for families who have children with special needs, December 18, 5:30 – 8:00 P.M. Santa will be there 7: 00 – 8: 00 P.M.* The Arc, Upper Valley will be having a Toy Fair Thursday, December 13th, 1:00 – 8:00PM at The Townhouse. They will be selling toys, books, games, electronics and assistive devices for children with and without disabilities. *Safe Kids will be having "Safe Kids At Home Training", Wednesday, January 16, 2008 at Altru Building 1, Payne Hall. Some of the topics will include: Meth, fire safety plans and playground safety.* Dena Larson spoke about Special Ed and early childhood outcomes training, January, February and March. The conference will be in Mandan in May. *Carol Brakel mentioned there may not be a Family Connections Conference in summer of 2008. We will keep the RICC posted.* Also there would be a Mandated Reporter training that afternoon.

Carol Brakel stated they were hoping to have the feedback for the Quality Improvement Plan but the state would not be mailing the reports out until the 10th. The indicators are regulated by federal and state. All of the regions other than one needed intervention based on the monitoring results. Virginia Cleveland will sit in on the ICC next Monday, the 10th, and they will be going over the QIP reports. Family Supports and respite caregivers such as Development Homes, Support Systems and Easter Seals are struggling to find staff.

Carol Brakel and Ramona started discussions regarding the QIP. Indicators were reviewed and discussed. Some of the discussion included; Services are being monitored to make sure they are set in place in a timely manner. They are also monitoring where kids are receiving services. At this time, most services are provided in the natural environment-there was discussion related to Infant Development and direct therapy and making sure that families are not caught between 2 philosophical approaches. Family Outcome Surveys are sent directly to the families and relate to how families feel supported. Completing IFSP's in the 45 day time frame has been a strong point for us. We have been doing very well with transition. Carol and Ramona invite case managers to their case reviews which take place each quarter. We also provide a checklist to make sure families are aware of their parental rights. The Quality Improvement Plan for our region as well as the other regions is posted on the North Dakota Early Intervention website.

Ramona with KIDS Infant Development Program reported they continue to have referrals coming in on a consistent basis. They are now contracting with Melissa Deckert and Kristin Votava for Speech Pathology. Infant Development and DD case managers continue to have monthly meetings together to ensure that quality and timely services are being provided to families.

Joan Karpenko, our experienced parent, reported on The Fall Family Festival DD and Infant Development had for their families in September. It was held at Playland at Purpur Arena. It was well attended as it was a beautiful fall day. Families we serve from up North were also able to attend being they did not have to tackle the usual winter weather. Joan Karpenko along with Infant Development started a Mom's support group for the families we serve. We meet twice a month at Wesley United Methodist Church. We try to have a speaker at one of the meetings. Dr. Avery from Altru Pediatrics will be speaking Tuesday, December 4th. The playground project is moving forward. We now have brochures which include a list of equipment and prices. Businesses as well as a few families have purchased a piece of equipment which will have a plaque on it with their name. Mayor Brown is declaring December 14th as "Citywide Jeans Day" with the proceeds going to the playground.

Danielle Kovarik and Laurie Santangelo from Public Health talked about the new dental clinic. They do dental varnishing (a fluoride treatment), cleaning and check ups. They don't do root canals or caps. Dr. Korsmoe, who grew up in Northwood, is the dentist they hired. Danielle does do some of the varnishing at the Public Health office. There is a new dentist in Park River who also takes medical assistance.

Tiffani from Altru spoke about their outreach clinics at Fort Totten and Belcourt. They went very well.

Carmen Suminski told us the School for The Blind is having their centennial in 2008. They do have a brochure. The statewide Deaf/Blind Project is sponsoring a family weekend in Jamestown, February 22-23. They will have a conference May 7, 8 and 9 at The Holiday Inn in Grand Forks. There is a cost for the banquet. The Celebration of the Life of Helen Keller will be held in Bismarck in June. They are hoping the governor and other dignitaries will attend. There will be an all school reunion in September. All of this information can be found on their website.

Dena Larson, Special Ed director from Upper Valley, stated there will be some outcome training in the future. There will be a transition fair in April for high school ages 16 – 21 at the UND ballroom.

Ann Grossbauer from Child Care Resource and Referral said they have new training software which can be used as a clearing house for other agencies and respite care and childcare providers. After registering, CEU's are able to be printed. They are also working with the Rural Health Network planning grant. There are only 3 childcare health consultants in the state. They can provide training for childcare staff and children with special needs. They are looking for someone to do dental trainings for childcare providers. Log on to: ndchildcare.org to search for childcare or for providers looking for employees.

Carol Brakel reminded us we need more parent representatives. It would be great if their child is enrolled in Early Intervention or has just exited. . If we have any parents from up north

interested, there could be a possibility that we could do Polycom or conference calls from the Grafton office.

We set the 2008 meeting dates as follows:

February 25, May 19, August 25 and November 24

Submitted by: Joan Karpenko